

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

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Number 5

WITHIN THE WEEK

It would be very easy at this point to gain a distorted and unduly optimistic picture of our progress in the European War. Judged by surface indications—and the dispatches that have passed military censorship—everything appears to be going our way. But this is not yet the time for febrile jubilation.

True, the British 2nd and the U S 1st and 3rd Armies appear to have reversed a trend and to have lessened the immediate peril in their areas. But their advances (British 2nd gained 2000 yds Wednesday) certainly do not represent the all-out offensive planned prior to Von Rundstedt's surprise attack.

In the long run, if the weather holds, Allied planes may do more to impair enemy effectiveness than any ground forces, not excluding the vaunted Red armies of Russia. The damage or destruction of 7,000 Nazi tanks, trucks and other vehicles in 3 days is a blow not only immediately damaging but even more important in its potential significance.

Perhaps the most important single consideration from now on will be weather. Germany must be beaten decisively before spring thaws, else vast motorized equipment (particularly Russian equipment) will be immobilized for a time. History must be made in next 6 or 7 wks; otherwise our

name (and our Nemesis) will be mud. And you can then look for fighting to go on into the summer.

ITALY: Watch closely any German move to withdraw divisions. This will signalize the last stand for a negotiated peace.

PHILIPPINES: As we approach the last 50 mi to Manila we shall get a more accurate picture of enemy resistance (tho it must be kept in mind that those who direct warfare in the Pacific deliberately use censorship as a military instrument.) A good many Japanese on Luzon have lost face (with bodies attached) but the relative rapidity of our progress indicates the real test is yet to come. If all goes well you may look for MacArthur to strike elsewhere before final clean-up.

CHINA: It is high time to direct attention to an improved position. China is, and must remain for some time, the weakest Allied front. But the outlook is much more promising. Now that a truce with the agrarian regime is in prospect, Chiang Kai-shek's personal position is strengthened. Something approaching unified action is a possibility. Gen Hurley is making some progress in economic stabilization. The supply problem, tho still acute, is slightly improved.



SHIFTING SANDS

Realists are agreed that the significant thing, from the worker's point of view, is not the wages paid, but what those wages will command in terms of common necessities. Thus there's considerable interest in proposal of one nat'l organization to adjust salesmen's pay to mkt conditions and cost-of-living indices. Salary would be base, under this plan, with override fluctuating as conditions are reported by outside sources each quarter. . . With the race tracks closed, Federal Reserve and SEC are keeping a close eye on speculative trading in Wall St. Admittedly, there is a speculative trend, but so long as trading is largely on a cash basis—no matter how unwelcome—there is little that the control agencies can do. . . While there is a good deal of pressure in his behalf that is not yet evident, it our prediction that former vice-president HENRY WALLACE will not serve as Sec'y of Commerce with full powers formerly granted to JESSE JONES.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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"You can't sit on the lid of progress. If you do you will be blown to pieces."—HENRY KAISER.

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"The war can no longer be regarded as a young man's war."—Maj Gen'l LEWIS B. HERSHEY, director Selective Service.

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"Dead horses will not be eaten if they are found to be dead too long."—Statement issued to German army, as reported by captured Nazi troops.

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"There are a lot of things around this office I don't see—including the good-looking girls."—Vice Adm EMORY S. LAND, war shipping administrator, questioned concerning a certain Maritime matter on which he did not care to comment.

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"There ain't no problem of absenteeism round here any more. Everybody can't wait to get to the office next day to see what happens."—Elevator girl in Dep't of State bldg, to news photographer on way up to STETTINIUS' office.

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"They must have been drunk or crazy with the cold."—Lt-Col E. A. TRAHAN, mbr U S 2nd armored div, reporting that 60 German troops on bicycles dismounted and charged a light U S tank, screaming and cursing. Americans mowed them down.

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"I have long wanted to know what goes on in jury rooms, but I don't think that I'm qualified."—Judge ADOLPH MARSCHER, of Detroit, receiving summons to appear as potential mbr of jury panel, decided to curb his curiosity rather than resign from the bench. (Law states that no man can be both jurist and jurymen at same time.)

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"I have yet to meet anyone who would care to drive with an engine under the hood that would make the same noise as the power plant of a fighter or a bomber."—C. B. VEAL, mgr of Coordinating Research Council, pricking dreams of motorists for use of high-octane motor fuel, now used in planes, that would propel a car 30 to 50 miles on a gallon of gasoline.

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"Defeats—nothing but defeats."—Ghost voice, breaking in on a German news broadcast.

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"My word, he looks like a drug clerk!"—Girl reporter, on seeing vice-pres HARRY TRUMAN for 1st time.

"We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; that our well being is dependent on the well being of other nations, far away. We have learned that we must live as men, not as ostriches, nor as dogs in the manger."

"We have learned to be citizens of the world, members of the human community."—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, in his 4th inaugural address.

"We're not gunmen, we're soldiers."—Staff Sgt WM J. BUTLER, Ft Sumpter, S C, asked by a war correspondent if his group notched their guns for every dead Nazi.

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"I would rather be a villain on the screen and bep someone on the head occasionally than play the most noble of characters."—BARRY FITZGERALD, whose supporting role as the elder priest in *Going My Way* "stole the show."

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"He will drink any kind of liquor and has a nasty bad temper and is a good liar. He won't keep a job and won't do right by anything and anybody and will steal anything. But I love him and I'm worried. Please find him."—Appeal of Columbus (O) woman to police in Miami, Fla.

"I ain't here to make news; I'm down here to learn."—Sen LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, of Massachusetts.

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"If they can't bet on horses let them buy bonds and bet on our men!" — JOE E. LEWIS, quoted by WINCHELL.

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"It is only in totalitarian countries where they try to eliminate sports in wartime."—THOS E. DEWEY, asked to comment on morale value of professional sports activities.

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"One could hardly expect Donald to give up feminine companionship for the duration. He needs some relaxation."—Mrs HELEN NELSON, recently divorced wife of ex-WPB chief, commenting on rumor that he had been seen in company of two different women.

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"It should be the aim of our officers to get their salutes in 1st, as a sign of courtesy."—From a bulletin issued by British gen'l hdqrs, in India. (To complicate things, a similar order has been issued by U S Army hdqrs.)

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"Hey, that would be the blood to get!"—American soldier in line to contribute blood at AEF hdqrs, Paris, observing Gen'l EISENHOWER taking his place among volunteers. (Gen'l, who overheard comment observed: "If you do, I hope you don't inherit my bad disposition.")

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"If I were Speaker of this House, I would try to find some means whereby we could have a roll-call before the chaplain asks divine blessings."—Rep RICH, of Pennsylvania, urging a law requiring members of Congress to be present for chaplain's opening daily prayer.

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"I hoped you were conscious of, and shared with me the pleasure in the fact that there is a truce in Greece." — Foreign Minister ANTHONY EDEN, in sarcastic response to Laborite EMMANUEL SHINWELL who asked whether it would not be better to use British forces against Germany rather than against Left Wing element in Greece.

"I hate to go away and leave a baby boy and come back to a college graduate. It's like something you can't get back."—Capt HENRY BAKER, from diary describing impact of war on the individual soldier (appearing in P M.)

"We're not keeping open in such weather without heat for the sake of making money (but) because we think we should do our best to entertain people in these times."—Mgr of *Folies Bergere* in Paris, after 6 scantily clad dancers collapsed during performance. Temperature on stage at time was 20 degrees.

"Her figure now is as well known to most GI's as the Eiffel tower, and they consider it far better proportioned." — ROSE MUSEL, UP correspondent in Paris, commenting on GISSY VARGA, strip-tease artist performing at *Folies Bergere*.

"Burglars ruined the lock on our front door recently—and locks are hard to get. If the yeggs will only phone me, I'll let them in. There's nothing they'd want inside." — J STANLEY SIMPSON, chief clerk, Will County Rationing Bd, Joliet, Ill. (SIMPSON explained that ration books and stamps are kept in the Peoria office.)

"There's no safe place to cover a war. War is shootin', and if you cover a war, you get in the shootin'. You can't write a war from the rear."—ERNE PYLE, veteran war correspondent, off to the Pacific, to report the "heartbreak and the homesickness" of his favorite soldier, the infantryman.

"I have been shining my own shoes and opening doors of cabs—when I could get them—for a long time. It doesn't hurt the descendants of hardy pioneers to attend to such niceties themselves."—WM H SPENCER, regional director, War Manpower Commission, in Chicago, commenting on plan to assign those in "service" industries to war plants.

"I'm too young to be sec'y of War."—Mayor LA GUARDIA, of N Y City, asked about report that he was entering ROOSEVELT cabinet.

"I left a lot of my buddies back there. I'd rather be there than here."—Pfc MATTY DABOWSKI, South River, N J, one of 1368 soldiers sent home from front line recently for 30 days' leave.

"No, Hollywood's not looking for my type. Dis, dat, dese—I can learn to talk that way but not very well."—TODD DUNCAN, Negro singer, after his tremendous success as *Porgy* in *Porgy and Bess* brought a film offer.

"We had supposed a little while ago that gov't would have to build no more than \$1 billion worth of plants in '45. Now, I wouldn't be surprised if we came out with as much as \$5 billions of new industrial construction, public and private." — J A KRUG, director, WPB.

"I've seen him! I've seen my idol!" —A middle-aged woman, emerging from a theatre where VICTOR MATURE was appearing. (She walked dreamily thru lobby fish pond, knocked down a war bond booth and moved on starry-eyed into the street.)

"I broke more hearts in the U S than ROSE TAYLOR did when he got married."—JAS A CUCA, combat news photographer. (No, it wasn't his personality. CUCA is the guy who took those pictures of Yanks being kissed by French girls during the invasion.)

"If you made Mr Wallace pres of Gen'l Motors, U S Steel Corp, the Ford Motor Co and the nation's two largest banks, then doubled the size of all of them, he'd still control less money than as top boss of Reconstruction Finance Corp and its appendages." — CHAS T LUCEY, Washington correspondent for Scripps-Howard Newspapers, commenting on significance of Pres ROOSEVELT's appointment of ex-vice pres to head Dept of Commerce.

"We will cover London with a carpet of robots."—Boast of the German radio, which asserted that London was to have "No 1 priority" in distribution of deadly missiles.

"Here I am selling electric lights and they pick out candelabra."—PRESTON ARKWRIGHT, pres of Georgia Power Company. Presenting awards to Georgia's Woman of the Year, he discovered one of the trophies chosen was silver candelabra.

"I want the people to know that my wheels have not been greased." —Sen RAYMOND E WILLIS, Indiana, commenting on newspaper statement that Senate's wheels have been "greased for swift action" on work-or-fight legislation.

"I didn't have the heart to break up such a beautiful friendship." —Lt GEORGE FITZGERALD, of N Y, took a German sentry prisoner and started toward American lines with him. A second German came running after him, hands upraised to surrender with him explaining: "We went through basic together ... retreated together across N Africa, Russia, France, always together. Where he goes, I go."



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COLUMNIST'S COLUMN

The Immortal Merriwell

JOE WILLIAMS

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

Junior, never let 'em tell you Frank Merriwell is dead.

Nod your head and say you understand when they tell you Gilbert Patten, his creator, is dead—a fine, sensitive, imaginative man. But don't ever let 'em tell you our hero is dead.

One of the best things that keeps our youth what it is today—yes, and our country—is the fact that Frank Merriwell is as indestructible as the north wind, as enduring as the sun.

I've known him many yrs. I've known him by the name of Babe Ruth, an urchin off the streets of Baltimore who, at 14, began hitting the ball out of the yard for unbelievable distances, and grew up to make more money than we pay the President of the U S.

There was a Frank Merriwell in the prize ring I knew as Gene Tunney. He came off the harsh downtown docks in N Y to win the heavyweight championship, make a million dollars and marry the girl of his dreams who lived in a towering social castle.

I knew another Frank Merriwell who called himself Gene Sarazen, son of an immigrant Italian laborer. As a barefoot caddy, he resolved to rise above poverty. The last time I saw him on a golf course he was walking arm in arm with the man who gave up his throne for the "woman I love." A far cry from the barefoot days of caddying. But the far cry was the Merriwell battle hymn.—Abridged from Mr WILLIAMS' sports column.

AIRCRAFT—Market

While it has been predicted that there will be an immediate (post-war) mkt for 100,000 personal aircraft, this is a "blue sky" figure, depending upon many unknown factors. Should production of 100,000 planes per yr be achieved, they would represent a total vol of about \$250 million per yr, or about 1% of the present aircraft vol.—Jos T GEUTING, Jr, of Aviation Chamber of Commerce of America, to a committee on Military Affairs, U S Senate.

AMERICAN

At the Press Club canteen, in Washington, recently, GI's had an opportunity to meet Mrs Geo S Patton, wife of the commander of the 3rd Army.

A private introduced himself, told the lady he was with the armored forces and had just been ordered overseas.

"I think I'm going to France," he volunteered. "If I see your Old Man over there, I'll tell him hello."

It could only happen in the U S! —BASCOM N TIMMONS, Washington Bureau, *Chicago Sun*.

CHURCH—and State

The Christian Church in the reconstruction era will find new official agencies for helping the people which will compete for the attention of the public. The missionary and pastor must look upon such gov't activities for public welfare not as rival programs but as allied efforts in ministering to human needs. If the Church stands aloof from official rehabilitation programs it risks being "bypassed" and isolated.—J MERLE DAVIS, "Missionaries for the Post-War Era," *Religious Digest*, 12-'44.

CONSERVATION

Observing that a repair man who had fixed a tire for him was rolling it the length of the garage, a motorist yelled: "Hey, pick that thing up! What d'ya want to do, wear it out?"—*Parade*.

COURTESY

It was during a bargain sale and tempers were rising.

"If I were trying to match polite-

ness," said the customer to the salesgirl, "I'd have a hard time finding it here."

The clerk responded: "Will you kindly let me see your sample, madam?"—*Successful Farming*.

FORGIVENESS—of Injury

Doing an injury puts you below your enemy; revenging one makes you even with him; forgiving it sets you above him.—*Nyctic Review*.

GOD—Definition

A man, when asked to explain what God is, replied: "I know if I'm not asked."

HOUSING

The best answer to socialized housing is to build so many good houses in all price brackets that public houses won't be needed or wanted. Instead of opposing public housing, find a way to do the job better thru private enterprise. . .

The only answer we see to date is longer term financing. Thirty or 40-yr mortgages at 4% interest may be called for, with an added feature providing for maintenance and upkeep to protect values.—Editorial, *American Bldr*, 1-'45.

JAPANESE—Character

Yrs ago when the widow of Emperor Meiji died on the seashore and not, as a Queen should, in the palace, courtiers used an ingenious method to save the face of the Dowager. Dressed in travelling costume, her corpse was propped up in the seat of a ry coach and taken to Tokio. Subjects humbly paid their respects en route and, as far as Japan knew, she died in the palace.—*Thread of Life*, hm, State Mutual Life Assurance Co.

LAW—Lawyers

A man charged with murder consulted a famous att'y, but balked at the proposed fee, saying that another lawyer had offered to defend him for much less.

"I would suggest," said the famous att'y, "that you retain this other fellow. He will charge you half the fee and you won't even have to pay it. Your heirs will!"—*Pageant*.

LEISURE

Leisure, like food, may contribute to our happiness and well-being or, ignorantly and gluttonously used, may destroy us.—OWEN D YOUNG, *Recreation*, 1-'45.

They DO Say...

Social Forces, the U of North Carolina's social science quarterly, comes up with startling statistic that there are 1007 occupied homes in N Y City which have no water supply within 50 ft of kitchen sink; in 327, women get their dishwater from outdoor hand pumps. . . *Esquire*, polling college presidents, finds 52.39% do not hope to see postwar football enjoy its pre-Pearl Harbor popularity. . . Editorial staff of *New Yorker* has probably turned out more books, proportionately, than any other gen'l mag. Latest is a collection of pieces by RUSSELL MALONEY, soon to be issued by Dial. Aptly titled, *It's Still Maloney*. . . *Time* and *Life* are currently memorializing Wm CHICKERING, their 1st correspondent to die "in the full roar of combat". . . Movie trade jnls, by the way, are needling *Time* for errors in recent profile of ANITA COLBY.

LIBERALISM—Defined

A liberal: A man with his mind open at both ends.—P M.

MARRIED LIFE

My friend Julius, bartender at the Gramercy Park, discussing his recent marriage at an age when one might have supposed he would remain a bachelor, remarked:

"A married man lives like a dog, but dies like a king. A single man lives like a king, but dies like a dog."—EDWIN A LAHEY, syndicated column.

PEACE

Peace on earth depends, not upon the pompous platitudes of the treaty-makers, but upon the individual behavior of every single being upon the earth. *It is your children and mine who must make a better world.*—A J CROWIN (author, *Keys of The Kingdom*) "The Family," *Redbook*, 1-'45.

PEACE—War

When we talk of policing the world, this is meant to be a transition from armies to police, from seeing the world as a set of warring nat'l entities to seeing it as one civic unity. . . To call ourselves police of a non-existent, unplanned order is as idle as to dream that we, by ourselves, or with any one ally, can build the best world form which could be built.—MARGARET MEAD, *And Keep Your Powder Dry*. (W Morrow & Co)

PRAYER

"Oh, Lord," prayed a Negro soldier, "don't let nothin' git a hold ob me that You an' me both cain't handle."—*Progressive Farmer*.

PRAYER—Answered

In Scotland there lived an old woman who believed implicitly in the efficacy of prayer. One night two young rogues heard her praying for bread. As a joke, they brought two loaves from the village baker, climbed to the roof of the cottage and dropped them down the chimney.

Later, they called at the old woman's home to hear her tell of what she considered a miraculous answer to her prayer. The scamps then laughed at the old woman, and related how they themselves had dropped the loaves down the chimney.

The old woman's faith was not shaken. "I still say God sent it," she declared, "tho the devil's imps may have brought it."—*The Toastmaster*.

PROFANITY

On Guadalcanal, the chief of a Polynesian tribe posted the following announcement on a messhall bulletin board: "American soldiers are requested to please be a little more careful in their choice of language, particularly when natives are assisting them in their unloading of ships, trucks, and in erecting abodes. American missionaries spent many yrs among us and taught us the words we should not use. Every day, American soldiers use those words and the good work your missionaries did is being undermined by your careless profanity."—*The Link*, 12-'44.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

Press agents in various gov't bureaus are being instructed to "talk tough and act as if the war might last forever." New technique is to issue press release whenever screws are tightened, say little or nothing if and when they're loosened.

There's undercover squabble between two factions in WPB. One group, seeking to curb black mkt and hoarding wants stores to advertise that specific wares aren't short, won't be if people don't overbuy. Realists x the idea, saying ads would only impel people to buy.

Bulletin of Nat'l Federation of Sales Exec's tells a good one on OPA. At one of their holiday parties in Washington hotel, price of highballs suddenly advanced. Proprietor explained blandly he had "improved the quality." "If it can happen to us," say baffled enforcement officers, "it can happen to anybody, anywhere."

From Calcutta comes word of Yank ingenuity in solving meat problem. No Mohammedan will touch a hog, while all Hindus revere cows. Army packing house hires 2 shifts. Mohammedans slaughter beef; Hindus handle hogs.

Some hint on postwar race problem may be gleaned from survey completed by Nat'l Opinion Research Center, U of Denver. It indicates only 16% of public believe Japanese living in America should have equal chance with whites at postwar jobs. Another 21% give qualified answer. 61% flatly oppose.

WPB officials, scouting Chicago housewares exhibit last wk, ordered mgr of refrigerators to remove two postwar models on display. It's okay to show pictures of what you hope to have—but no models.



AUTOMOBILE: Hazards of night driving are reduced thru rear-window screen which greatly reduces glare. Same material has been incorporated in rear-vision mirror. To obtain benefits, driver must wear Polaroid spectacles or visor. (Polaroid Corp'n)

HEATING—Ventilating: New principle for burning anthracite gives more heat with less coal. Unit 3 ft long, 2 ft sq. Automatically fed into hollow tube, coal burns in center of tube, ash discharged at other end. Water or air circulates around hot part of tube, carries heat thru house in usual distributing manner. Price may be lower than other central heating equipment. (Better Homes & Gardens)

Storm window made of transparent flexible plastic is raised or lowered in manner of window shade. Edges run in felt-lined side channels, preventing air circulation. (Science News Letter)

MEDICINE: Indications are penicillin may prove specific for patients suffering sub-acute bacterial endocarditis, heart condition usually fatal. Drs Dawson and Hunter, of Presbyterian hospital and Columbia U College of Physicians & Surgeons report on 20 patients whose condition was due to streptococcus sensitive to penicillin. After dosage with drug, 15 ret'd to work, apparently well. Of remaining 5, two relapsed, 3 died.

TELEVISION: Future dep't store style showings may be made via television. Several big stores have applications pending with FCC. These store-owned stations contemplate showings within the stores. Going outside, they'd have to supply entertainment, informational programs or forfeit license.

PROGRESS—Prejudice

When Edison announced his 1st public exhibition of the electric light, the story got into the *New York Herald* before it was seen by the managing editor. When he did see the item he rushed in wrath to the city room. Pushing the paper under the nose of the city editor, he shouted: "How did that get into the paper? Light strung on wires, indeed! You have made a laughing stock of the *Herald*! Oh, what will Mr Bennett say?"—*The Wright Line*, hm, Wright & Co.

PROPAGANDA

Our greatest error as a nation has been to have a military man broadcast to the enemy. . . If America would let loose her idealists on the sound waves of the world, broadcasting fiery, challenging Christian American ideals, military victory, which in itself settles nothing, would have been ours mo's ago. —W HAMILTON AULENBACH, rector, *Christ Church & St Michael's*, Germantown, Phila.

RACE—Prejudice

A distinguished vestryman, devout and hard-working, listened attentively as his rector preached a carefully reasoned sermon against anti-semitism. After the service he sought out the rector and said: "I believe that everything you said is perfectly true. But I still believe that all Jews should either be run out of this country or put in concentration camps."—*The Witness*.

RESEARCH

"This problem, when solved, will be simple."—Motto hanging on an office wall of Gen'l Motors Research dep't, Dayton.

SPEECH—Speaking

As we grow older, our bodies get shorter and our anecdotes longer. —ROB'T QUILLEN.

THOUGHT

Imagery puts handles on thoughts to make them easier to pick up.—HOWARD W NEWTON, *Advertising and Selling*.

VIEWPOINT—Modern

It is a good thing to try to live in the same century in which your

body walks around. It is not good to live in the present century and have your citizenship back in the dark ages.—Rev J WALLACE HAMILTON, *Missions*, 1-'45.

WALKING

Stand erect, place right foot on the ground, push foot down as in operating throttle and shift weight to right foot. Place left foot forward to repeat operation. Alternate at a speed of 60 steps per minute and, when proficiency has been attained, increase speed to 80 per min. This is known as "walking," a form of transportation used before the development of the automobile and said to be healthful. It is likely to be revived.—*Bulb Horn*, Jnl of Veteran Car Club of America.

WAR—Waste

In the grave of every man who dies in this war there lies, beside his own body, the corpse of one or more mbrs of the next generation. These countless unseen little bodies are the babies which millions of dead men will never father.—Dr MARIE PICHEL WARNER, in *Medical Woman's Jnl*.

WOMEN—Activities

Consider the sad case of a fictitious Alfred Pipsqueak, resident of Detroit.

He can get haled before a red-headed lady judge.

He can get prosecuted by a brunet lady prosecutor.

He can get convicted—and how—by one of these wartime all-women juries.

All right, so he appeals.

There's another woman waiting for him in the legal upstairs of the Att'y Gen'l's office!

Our Mr Pipsqueak's hangman probably would turn out to be a lady, too!—JAS S POOLER, *Detroit Free-Press*.

WORK—Virtue of

A man who keeps his shoulder to the wheel is rarely seen giving others trouble. He's like a mule in the respect that when he's pulling, he can't kick, and when he's kicking, he can't pull.—Rev ARCHER E ANDERSON, "It Can Be Done," *Moody Monthly*, 1-'45.

Lines from a Waspless Woolcott

Fifty-eight yrs ago last wk (1-19) ALEXANDER WOOLCOTT was born at Phalanx, N J. Two yrs ago this wk (1-23) he suffered a fatal heart attack while broadcasting on a radio program at N Y City. Woolcott was one of those rare personalities who become fables in their own lifetime. He had a genius for accumulating friends—and enemies. In 1917, his 30th yr, he resigned his post as dramatic critic of N Y Times to enlist as an orderly with a hospital unit. In France he eventually rose to the rank of sergeant. In the spring of '18 he was requisitioned as a reporter on the Stars & Stripes, Army newspaper published in Paris. It was during this period in France that the relatively unknown Woolcott wrote some of his most delightful letters. We present a few excerpts from The Letters of Alexander Woolcott (Viking, \$3.50). Readers may find interesting comparisons between the France of World Wars I and II.

To Mrs ALICE HAWLEY TRUAX, Dec 4, '17: . . . I know nothing big and significant about the war that you yourself do not know. The censorship is vexing, but it is not really choking back anything worth mentioning from me. I am not sure that you have not a far clearer view of things. . . I think we in our corner see the war less clearly, talk of it less often and think of it far, far less. . .

I remember, when I was back home, that I was amused at the comfort the British correspondents drew from the woe and discouragement of prisoners taken at Messines Ridge. Naturally enough, these prisoners felt that the end of the war was at hand. . . I imagine that a great hospital, splendidly run far back of the Riga front, would feel as if everything were going wonderfully well, even in the midst of a complete Russian rout. So, if I were running some small office in some small hospital on the Western front, all would seem well if that office went well, and all would seem pretty badly off if that office ran badly. I imagine the war, for Hawley, will always depend largely on the way his car happens to run.

" "

To Mrs ALICE HAWLEY TRUAX, July 6, '18: . . . I am becoming a passionate enthusiast on the subject of America. . . Not so very deep in my heart, there were doubts about the record America would make. I used to listen to the boys on the boat and in camp prattling to the effect that the American would make the best soldier in the world. And I used to shudder because it seemed provincial, because I thought there was nothing in his

To RUTH HALE: We were very hilarious during the 1st performance of *Billeted* when the lovely ingenue dropped her lighted cigaret down the bosom of her gown. It was an agonizing moment and no time for false delicacy. You should have seen her go after it! . . .

P S: Notre Dame is having a bath. They are scrubbing the old lady from base to gargoyles. Her ancient stone emerges unexpectedly white and embarrassed—like Heywood found nude on 5th Ave.

tory to justify it. . . Well, I have been living at the front with the infantry, getting to know the American under fire, getting to know whole rafts of men from all corners of America as I never knew them before, and I do believe with all my heart there never were braver, gentler, finer, more chivalrous soldiers since the world began.

I cannot tell you how important, how fine, and how telling was the work done by the men who raced across France and jumped into that battle just north of the Marne—literally did that, leaping from the big camions as they slowed up and fairly running into the fray. . .

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To RUTH HALE (Mrs HEYWOOD BROWN), Sep 5, '18: . . . I have been working in and out of Paris for six mo's and love it above all places in the world. The river that flows past my window now is gleaming in the sunset. . . the bridges fade away mysterious in the distance—and no German foot shall ever cross them.



Brave and Bold
HORATIO ALGER, JR

HORATIO ALGER, Jr, son of a Unitarian minister, was born in Revere, Mass 111 yrs ago this month. He wrote more than 120 books for boys. We present here the typical Alger finale with virtue rewarded and villains vanquished:

Congratulations poured in upon our hero, who rec'd them with modest satisfaction.

When Ben Haley heard that his uncle's estate had been bequeathed to the boy whom he had persecuted, his rage was unbounded. But he could not delay the day of sailing, and so he was forced to forego his vengeance. But this was destined to be his last voyage. While in Rio Janeiro he became engaged in a fracas with a desperate ruffian who snatched a knife from his girdle, and drove it into the heart of the unhappy captain, who fell back on the floor and expired without a groan. Thus terminated a misguided and ill-spent life.

Rob't, now being in easy circumstances, decided to pursue his studies for two yrs longer. He then entered upon a business life under the auspices of Mr Morgan, and promises to become a prominent and wealthy merchant.

Hester Paine, as a young lady, fulfills the promise of her girlhood. There is some ground for the report from Millville that she and Rob't are engaged. The alliance will be in the highest degree pleasing to both families, for if Hester is fair and attractive, Rob't is energetic and of excellent principles, and possessed of those qualities which, with fair good fortune will, under the favor of Providence, insure his success in life.

THE END

Faced by insolent insubordination of Nazi prisoners in a stockade back of the 5th Army front in Italy, the Yank commandant knew what to do.

He telephoned HQ for a selected squad of soldiers. Each was over 6 ft tall; each unmistakably an Indian.

The squad paced silently among the recalcitrants directing lingering attention upon the closely-cropped heads, then went into a huddle. The commandant joined them, listened briefly, then remarked distinctly: "Well, can't you wait until their hair grows out? I'll have you detailed here as extra guards." The Indians shrugged, gave the prisoners final baleful glares, marched off, toward guards' quarters.

Murmurs started by Germans who understood English spread quickly thru the stockade. There were no further difficulties with that batch of supermen.—BURNET HERSHEY, *American Mercury*.



OF THE WEEK

CIVILIZATION: the system under which a busy business man rushes to town and pays a quarter to park his car so he won't be fined a dollar while eating a 15-cent breakfast.—*Journeyman Barber*.

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TIME: the stuff between pay days.

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The man with the hoe doesn't get nearly as far as the man with the hokum.—*Progressive Farmer*.

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The man who marries to have someone to tell his troubles to soon has plenty to talk about.—*Goat's Whisker*.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

THE GOVERNOR GUFFAWED

SPESSARD L. HOLLAND
Governor of Florida

An old Negro who had been sentenced to five yrs in the state penitentiary was asked by the judge if he had anything to say.

"Naw, sah," said the old man hesitantly, "Ah reckon not, sah, 'ceptin' maybe t' say dat you-all sho' is a bit lib'ral wid my time."

General Eisenhower was telling Churchill that British Tommies were having a good influence toning down GI exuberance. As Churchill beamed, a GI rushed in. "Gen'l, can I borrow your jeep?" he asked. Eisenhower calmed Churchill's agitation by saying, "See what I mean? A yr ago he wouldn't have asked."—*AP dispatch*.

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A wealthy amateur visited the studio of the artist Daumier and inq'd the price of a particularly beautiful picture. Daumier said, "Fifty thousand francs."

"Fifty thousand francs for one of your pictures?" demanded the prospective patron eyeing the shabby studio. "Impossible."

"My posthumous price, monsieur!" the artist responded proudly.—*Christian Science Monitor*.

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Irving Berlin is not exactly a Sinatra. Just after he had rendered his classic song, "How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" for the film version of *This is The Army*, he overheard an electrician exclaim, "If the guy who wrote that song hold this boid sing it, I bet he toined over in his grave."—BENNETT CRAW, *Sat Review of Literature*.

A Chicago dowager employed a new housekeeper. A few days later she found a letter written by the former housekeeper to her successor, wherein was given a complete account of the house and its hired help. Avidly and shamelessly she read the communication.

The butler, it said, was a pleasant man. The chef was inclined to tipple. The lady's maid gave herself airs. . . and so on.

Huddled away after signature in a casual postscript, she discovered the damning sentence: "As for the Mr and Mrs, they behave as well as they know how."—*Wall St Jnl*.

